

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Tsutomu INOUE et al.

Application No.: New Rule 53(b) Divisional of  
U.S. Patent Application No. 10/208,749

Filed: March 10, 2004

Docket No.: 113367.02

For: PROBE OPENING FABRICATING APPARATUS, AND NEAR-FIELD OPTICAL  
MICROSCOPE USING THE SAME

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

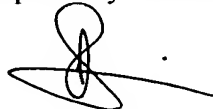
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the reference(s) listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the reference(s) be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date of this non-CPA application, OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application. No certification or fee is required.
- ☒ 2. The references were cited by or submitted to the Office in parent application No. 10/208,749, filed August 1, 2002, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. §120. Thus, copies of these references are not attached. 37 CFR §1.98(d).

Respectfully submitted,



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Form PTO-1449 (REV. 8-83)		US Dept. of Commerce PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY DOCKET NO. 113367.02		APPLICATION NO. New Rule 53(b) Divisional of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/208,749	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT(S) Tsutomu INOUE et al.			
				FILING DATE March 10, 2004		GROUP	
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS							
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS	
		20010048068 A1	12/2001	NARITA et al.			
		6,617,569 B2	09/2003	NARITA et al.			
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS	
OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)							
EXAMINER					DATE CONSIDERED		
Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.							

Date: March 10, 2004